

Cadet News

A TALL SHIP EXPERIENCE

It started at the boat show. I wanted to do the RYA Competent Crew, but with people my own age. A visit to the Sail Training Association stand revealed that they ran a trip for 16 – 25 year olds in February, which would fit in with my exam work at school. It was for ten days sailing around the Windward Islands; I talked to the staff, saw the pictures and was hooked!

The first challenge was to raise the money. Many of my fundraising letters were either ignored or rejected but I did get donations from a number of companies, organisations – including the local STA and CCSC – and individuals, for which I am hugely grateful. I also did lots of babysitting, decorating, cake stalls and cooking etc...

A school friend and I flew to Barbados and joined the Stavros S Niarchos. There were 48 trainees and 16 professional crew. We were divided into 3 watches; my friend and I were split up – panic! This was actually a good idea as we met more people. Each watch had 8 boys and 8 girls, there were several nationalities including some local Barbados boys. Our rota was 4 hours on 8 hours off, with a dogwatch to alternate timing. We slept in pipe-cots and had a small cupboard for our clothes. In the first few days I was lucky to helm a lot as most other people were sea sick, I found the ship easier to steer under sail. Keeping awake whilst on lookout duty was hard as you often only saw sea for hours; I think they did have some backup instruments though! Climbing the mast was quite hairy as you are not actually clipped on until you go out onto the yards; here the ropes, sails and blocks are heavy to pull up especially with the ship rolling around.

I admire the ship's cook who works with open hot plates and large knives in a small galley to feed 64; when being a galley slave it took us 2 hours just to wash up the breakfast.

We travelled 600 Nautical Miles visiting; Dominica, St Lucia, Bequia, Tobago Cays. Grenada and back up to Barbados. At our first stop, Dominica, I went on a trip up the Indian River and later on the colours of Tobago Cays was amazing. In St Lucia we found out how heavy the tropical rain can be! Other high points were being sent in the inflatable dinghy to fetch the doctor and then being slowly blown out to sea as it slowly deflated, so we had to be rescued. The water was beautifully clear for swimming, once we swam for our lives as sea fleas had bitten us! Burying other crew in the sand and having my 17th birthday on board.

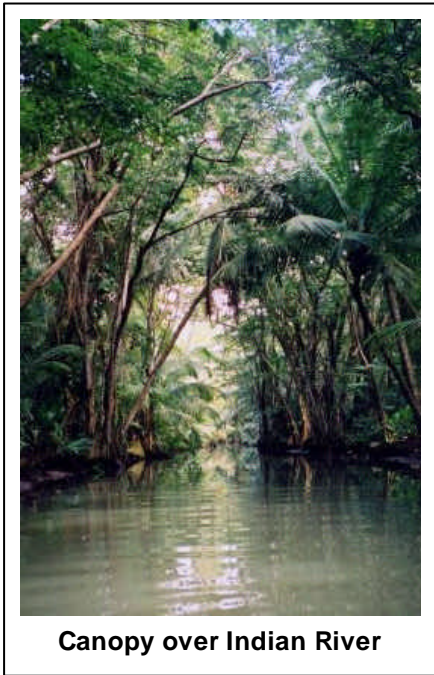
We arrived home exhausted; I learnt so much about sailing and teamwork and achieved my RYA Competent Crew – not to mention having the time of my life.

Lucy Dyke

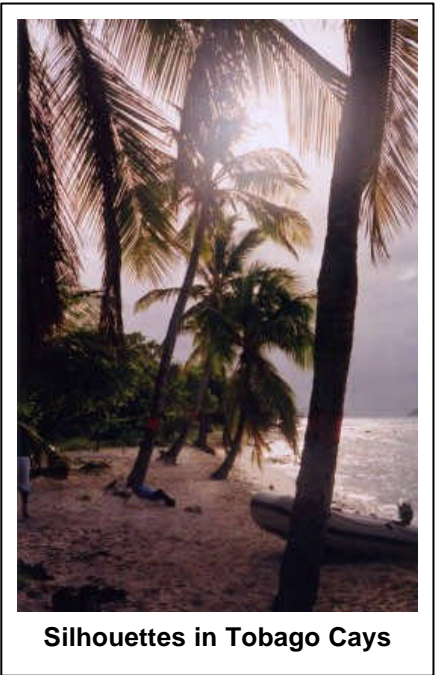




Boats and Palms in St. Lucia



Canopy over Indian River



Silhouettes in Tobago Cays

WELL DONE JEMMA! (even if she will argue that black is white and white is black)

In some of the most icy weather of the winter Jemma courageously trained for the Ten Tors Challenge. As a contrast it was one of the hottest weekends when as one of a team of three boys and two girls she successfully completed the 35 mile trek, tired, blistered but jubilant.

For the second year running, Jemma has sailed a Topper in the Sea Cadet Sailing Championships. And again this year she did well in the Regionals to reach the National Finals. Here, overall she

personally came 5th and was in the winning Regional Team.

She has risen to Leading Cadet with Weymouth Sea Cadets and has gained many useful boating skills with them.

Castle Cove moorings have benefited from her rope work expertise, as you will see from the photo of her handiwork. Each splice is beautifully tapered and finished off.

Yes - I am proud of our Granddaughter...

Rosemary Spicer



Splices

Photo by Rosemary Spicer